



May 9, 2007

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Executive Committee

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director

RE: Lifeline Program Recommendation, Agenda Item 10

Dear Commissioners:

Executive Summary

By the March 2 deadline for response to TAM's Lifeline Call for Projects, two proposals were submitted for consideration. Lifeline funding included in this Call is limited, at \$220,000, and essentially insufficient to allow approval and funding of both proposals. Staff considered a number of factors in assessing the candidates, most prominently the ability of the proposal to meet the priorities as outlined in the Community Based Transportation Plan for the Canal Neighborhood, adopted in September 2006. After a thorough review of both proposals,, staff is recommending that one of the two proposals, submitted by the City of San Rafael, covering Canal St. Pedestrian Access and Safety Improvements in the Canal Neighborhood of San Rafael, be forwarded to the TAM Board. The Board would direct staff to submit this project to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for funding under the current cycle of the Lifeline funding program.

Recommendation: That the TAM Executive Committee recommend to the full TAM Board approval of the City of San Rafael's proposal for \$240,000 in Lifeline funding for Canal St. Pedestrian Access and Safety Improvements in the Canal Neighborhood of the city.

Background:

As Congestion Management Agency (CMA) for Marin County, TAM is responsible for establishing project priorities for the county's component of the MTC region's Lifeline Transportation Program (LTP) for fiscal years 2005/2006 through 2007/2008. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) established the LTP to fund projects that result in improved mobility for low income residents of the Bay Area. For this funding cycle, based on the number of low income residents in Marin vs. other counties, \$492,000 is available for County projects. In January, TAM issued a Call for Projects covering about half this amount because one of two scheduled Community Based Transportation Plans (CBTP), covering the Canal Neighborhood in San Rafael, was complete. Staff intends to issue a second Call for Projects for use of the remainder of the county's allocation upon completion of the CBTP now underway in Marin City.

By the March 2 deadline for response to the Lifeline Call, two proposals had been submitted. One response is sponsored by the City of San Rafael and covers Canal Street Pedestrian Access and Safety Improvements in the Canal Neighborhood of the city. The second proposal, submitted by the County's Health and Human Services Department, seeks funding for a low

income mobility manager whose services would be performed for low income residents throughout the county.

Findings:

Both proposals meet the minimum qualifications necessary for favorable consideration and funding via the LTP. Both sponsors have secured the appropriate matching funds necessary to implement their proposals. Both proposals are backed by planning processes which have adequately defined the need. In staff's view, however, two important differences separate the two. While the need for the coordinator was defined in the MTC-sponsored 2002 Marin County Welfare to Work Transportation Plan, the San Rafael projects are included in the TAM-accepted Canal Neighborhood CBTP. CBTP's are unique because they allow residents of "community's of concern" to determine for themselves the community's transportation priorities. Having used this process to define the need, and set aside funding based on CBTP completion and results, staff recommends that the project in the Canal be given priority.

The position at Health and Human Services has the potential to fill a substantial need that exists in the County of Marin. A portion of this need, to coordinate the Lifeline transportation needs of the communities of concern in Marin, could be filled by a position being considered for implementation by the Marin County Transit District, a Lifeline Coordinator to address transit elements of the Lifeline program. There will be remaining needs, however, that are unaddressed. In particular, Marin County would be best served by addressing the mobility needs of the disabled, Seniors and communities of concern in a coordinated fashion. The rejection of the HHS proposal at this time has been discussed with HHS managers. TAM staff have agreed to further coordination on this need with HHS, to include the Marin County Transit District.

TAM staff recommend forwarding to MTC for funding from TAM's share of Lifeline Transportation funds the City of San Rafael Canal Ped/Safety project.

Note a second Call for Projects will be sent out once the Marin City Community Based Transportation Plan is complete in early 2008.

Recommendation: That the TAM Executive Committee recommend to the full Board TAM approval of the City of San Rafael's proposal for \$240,000 in Lifeline funding for Canal St. Pedestrian Access and Safety Improvements in the Canal Neighborhood of the city.